

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please insert in the first sentence after the title, the following new paragraph.

This application is the U.S. national phase of International Application PCT/EP2003/007353, filed July 9, 2003, claiming priority to German Patent Application 10231866.2 filed July 12, 2002, and the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/416,990, filed October 8, 2002; the disclosures of International Application PCT/EP2003/007353, German Patent Application 10231866.2 and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/416,990, each as filed, are incorporated herein by reference.

Please insert the following new paragraph at page 5, line 7.

### **Brief Description of the Drawings**

Figure 1 is a displacement/time diagram for a multistage process for producing hollow plastic articles.

Figure 2A is a diagram of a device for partitioning a plastic parison.

Figure 2B is a diagram of a device for partitioning a plastic parison with guide rollers(5).

Figure 3 illustrates deformation in parisons prepared by processes not according to the invention.

Figure 4 illustrates a device for partitioning parisons, and the resultant partitioned parisons or semifinished sheets.

Figure 5 illustrates an intermediate frame (8) between two half shells (7).